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Mr. KINGSTON changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So (two-thirds not having voted in favor thereof), the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in my district, I was unable to record my vote on the following bills: H. Res. 534 (rollcall No. 401); H. Con. Res. 319 (rollcall No. 402); H. Res. 531 (rollcall No. 403); and H.R. 3125 (rollcall No. 404). Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 401; "aye" on rollcall No. 402; "aye" on rollcall No. 403; and "no" on rollcall No. 404.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4576, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House may have until midnight tonight, July 17, 2000, to file a conference report on the bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ON THE NEED FOR MORE BORDER PATROL AGENTS ON AMERICA'S NORTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I do not have to remind this House about the fine work of our border patrol officers. They put their lives at risk every day to slow the flow of illegal drugs into this country and to keep our border safe from dangerous aliens. Their work in helping to arrest a suspected terrorist near Port Angeles, Washington, last December was exemplary.

Due to the current inept management of the INS, however, the jobs of these officers are made much, much more difficult. Over the past two fiscal years, Congress has appropriated funds for the INS to hire 2,000 new Border Patrol Agents. The agency has failed to hire anywhere near that number, and the vast majority of the new agents they have hired have been assigned to the southern border.

There is no reason why northern border staffing should not be greatly increased. Since 1996, I have sent numerous communications to President Clinton, Attorney General Reno, and INS Commissioner Doris Meissner demanding a permanent end to the transfers of Northwestern Border Patrol Agents and urging higher staffing levels on the northern border.

Instead, Commissioner Meissner has recently ordered another reassignment of agents from the northern to the southern border. In addition, she has ordered every Border Patrol plane moved from the State of Washington. In a month's time, every plane along the entire northern border will be moved south.

A few days ago, in protest to these moves, the entire delegation from the State of Washington wrote to Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner protesting her recent decision to transfer Washington State Border Patrol Agents and equipment to the Mexican border.

Ms. Meissner's latest raid on the northern border is unconscionable, especially because a July 8 story in the Seattle Times reports that "When Meissner made this decision, she possessed a confidential February report by the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General which determined that 'The 311 Border Patrol Agents along the northern border cannot adequately patrol the approximately 4,000 mile border with Canada.'"

The February report also notes that between 1993 and 1998, agents along the northern border were nine times more likely to encounter someone smuggling drugs and 14 times more likely to encounter someone smuggling weapons than agents along the southwest border.

Despite this overwhelming discrepancy, more than 95 percent of INS's Border Patrol Agents are on the southern border. In addition, INS Commissioner Meissner's decision to move personnel was made knowing that last year's arrest of suspected terrorist Ahmed Ressam highlighted additional reasons to maintain maximum coverage on the northern border.

I have also previously asked Commissioner Meissner to hire additional northern border agents, for which Congress has already appropriated the money. She has not only not hired additional agents, she has again relocated some of the few agents we have.

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In addition, she removed all of the patrol planes from the Washington border. Most outrageous of all, it turns out she has made these relocations while refusing to release the contents of a Department of Justice report that specifically highlights the severe personnel shortages on the U.S.-Canadian border.

Relocating agents and equipment while hiding details of the dangerous

understaffing problem at the northern border is a dereliction of duty. It is risky. It is wrong. It is irresponsible. If Commissioner Meissner cannot do an adequate job on our northern border, then we must get someone in the position who can.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSES HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I had the honor of joining the Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations, along with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), in New York.

We were invited to witness a historic debate at the U.N. Security Council on an issue of peacekeeping and security addressing the question of HIV/AIDS. For the first time, the world voice, the United Nations, took a unanimous stand to fight HIV/AIDS in the peacekeeping forces around the world.

Although we applaud their bravery, we realize that the military personnel that travel from one developing nation to another without the proper education and training are in harm's way, not only in terms of war, but in terms of the devastation of disease. Based upon our work, we are delighted that this kind of effort was made on behalf of the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) who has been the moving force on fighting AIDS in this Congress.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for her leadership and also for her efforts in helping the orphans and the children of Africa who are suffering now as a result of their parents dying of AIDS. I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership.

We participated in a mission last year. During that time in Southern Africa, we realized that we had to come back and do something. We looked in the eyes of babies, and there was no way that we could let these children live like this without us at least trying to do something for them.

This morning, I had the honor and the privilege to participate with the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) in actually witnessing the United Nations Security Council's historic discussion and vote regarding the importance of HIV and AIDS education and prevention as it relates to peacekeeping forces.

We all know that an ounce of prevention is really worth a pound of cure. We should be proud of the fact that our own ambassador, Ambassador Holbrooke, has and continues to take